GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TEXTILES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5366
ANSWERED ON:05.05.2008
TECHNOLOGY MISSION ON COTTON
Sugavanam Shri E.G.

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC) has yielded attractive returns to the cotton farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to extend TMC during the Eleventh Plan period; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the allocation made for the purpose during the said period?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN)

(a) & (b):Yes Sir.The Government of India launched the Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC) in February 2000 with the objectives of improving the production, productivity and quality of indigenous cotton, and reducing the cost of cultivation in missions mode. The Mission comprises four Mini Missions, which are jointly being implemented by the Ministries of Agriculture and Textiles. Research and Development on cotton and dissemination of technology to farmers are being undertaken by the Ministry of Agriculture through Mini Missions I and II respectively.Improvement in Marketing Infrastructure and the Modernization of Ginning & Pressing factories are implemented by the Ministry of Textiles (Cotton Corporation of India Ltd) through Mini Mission III & IV respectively. Under Mini Missions III & IV of the TMC, the cotton farmers availed attractive returns which are as follows:

Mini Mission-III (development of market yards):

(i) The market yards developed under TMC project have been provided with pucca platforms, roads, sheds, godowns, etc. As an outcome of these developments, quality of cotton is not damaged in these market yards and the farmers get proper remuneration of their good quality produce.

(ii) Each market yards developed under TMC has been provided with weighbridge, thus, farmers get accurate weighment of their produce.

(iii) Grading facilities provided in each market yard ensure that farmers get the price for their produce as per their quality.In case of any dispute, farmers may get their cotton tested in grading laboratories.

(iv) Most of the market yards have been provided with Farmers' Information Centres (FICs), by which farmers may improve their yields and also sell their cotton at the best market price available in the market yards of their vicinity.

(v) All TMC-developed market yards have been provided with Fire Fighting arrangements. Thus,the risk of fire in the market yard is now almost negligible and the farmers are benefited by getting an escape from such potential hazards.

(vi) Farmers have been provided with facilities like Farmers' Rest House, Canteen, Drinking Water, Toilet facilities, Input Supply Shops etc. which help them to meet their requirements for good quality food for them during their market visits and also good quality inputs at reasonable price for their produce.

Mini Mission-IV (modernized G&P factories)

(a) The cotton processed in modernized units, sells at a better price and has better market value in Indian as well as overseas markets because it has less trash content and negligible contamination level. Its backward Integration leads to the better payment capacities of purchasers. This in turn yields better remuneration to the farmers.

(b) The mills which were importing cotton from overseas markets have now started using Indian cottons which is available at comparatively cheaper rates as compared to the world market prices. Mills also escape, other hassles that they had to face while making such purchases from the overseas markets. They are now ready to pay better price to Indian farmers for their good quality cottons.

(c) & (d): Mini Mission III & IV of the TMC scheme has been continued in the XI Plan for two years i.e upto 31.3.2009 in terms of

targets and completion of the project. A sum of Rs. 241.35 crores has been allocated in the XI Plan, out of which a sum of Rs. 50 crores was provided in the Budget Estimates 2007-08 and a sum of Rs. 50 crore has been provided in the Budget Estimates 2008-09.